

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A taking lens unit comprising:
a lens barrel;
plural lens elements contained in said lens barrel; and
a flare stopper disposed between said lens elements so
that light that passes through at least one of the plural lens
elements falls on the flare stopper, an inner periphery of the
flare stopper defining a circular opening to pass incident light
upon said taking lens unit, said flare stopper comprising a sheet
material having an overall shape defined by first and second
sections;

wherein the first section of the sheet material has a
shape of a planar ring, and the second section of the sheet
material has a shape of a side face of a circular truncated cone,
with an outermost portion of the second section meeting an
innermost portion of the first section; ~~and~~

wherein an innermost portion of the second section
defines said circular inner periphery;

wherein said sheet material comprises Mylar (trade name)
film and the overall shape of the flare stopper is produced by
sheet metal stamping; and

wherein the flare stopper and one of the lens elements
are arranged so that one of said lens elements presses and deforms
said flare stopper so that said inner periphery is inclined with
respect to said optical axis of said taking lens unit.

7. (original) A taking lens unit as recited in claim 6,
further comprising:

a spacer disposed between said lens elements, wherein
said flare stopper in said taking lens unit is attached to said
spacer.

8-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A taking lens unit as recited in
claim [[10]] 6, wherein the thickness of said Mylar film is
approximately 0.03 to 0.05 mm.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A taking lens unit as recited
in claim 6, wherein said flare stopper is nipped and held between
a first of said lens elements and a spacer, the spacer being
arranged between the first lens element and another of the lens
elements.

14-24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A taking lens unit
comprising:

a lens barrel;
plural lens elements contained in said lens barrel; and
a flare stopper disposed between said lens elements, an
inner periphery of the flare stopper defining a circular opening
to pass incident light upon said taking lens unit

wherein said circular inner periphery is defined by a
portion of the flare stopper that is inclined with respect to an
optical axis of said taking lens unit; and

wherein the flare stopper and one of the lens elements
are arranged so that one of said lens elements presses and deforms
said flare stopper so that said inner periphery is inclined with
respect to said optical axis of said taking lens unit, the flare
stopper and the lens element that deforms the flare stopper being
arranged with respect to one another such that an inner portion of
the flare stopper is in contact with the deforming lens element,
with a space being present between an outer portion of the flare
stopper and the deforming lens.

26. (new) A taking lens unit comprising:

a lens barrel;
plural lens elements contained in said lens barrel; and
a flare stopper disposed between said lens elements so
that light that passes through at least one of the plural lens
elements falls on the flare stopper, an inner periphery of the
flare stopper defining a circular opening to pass incident light
upon said taking lens unit, said flare stopper comprising a sheet

material having an overall shape defined by first and second sections;

wherein the first section of the sheet material has a shape of a planar ring, and the second section of the sheet material has a shape of a side face of a circular truncated cone, with an outermost portion of the second section meeting an innermost portion of the first section;

wherein an innermost portion of the second section defines said circular inner periphery; and

wherein the flare stopper and one of the lens elements are arranged so that one of said lens elements presses and deforms said flare stopper so that said inner periphery is inclined with respect to said optical axis of said taking lens unit.

27. (new) A taking lens unit as recited in claim 26, further comprising:

a spacer disposed between said lens elements, wherein said flare stopper in said taking lens unit is attached to said spacer.

28. (new) A taking lens unit as recited in claim 26, wherein said flare stopper is nipped and held between a first of said lens elements and a spacer, the spacer being arranged between the first lens element and another of the lens elements.